

Town of Brentwood
Resolution No. 2009-06
A Resolution Authorizing and Directing
The Future Self-Provision of Law Enforcement Services

WHEREAS, from the incorporation of the Town of Brentwood (the “*Town*”) in 1922 to the present date, the Prince George’s County Police Department (the “*County Police*”) has provided all local law enforcement services (save for random law enforcement agreements with neighboring municipalities and the years during which the Town of Brentwood maintained its own municipal police force) within the Town’s jurisdiction pursuant to the memorandum of understanding agreement for law enforcement services with the County Police and Prince George’s County; and

WHEREAS, despite the generally high quality law enforcement services provided by the officers assigned to the Town, it has become increasingly apparent to the Council and residents that, absent formation of the Town’s own police department the Town will remain dependent on third party providers for police services, thereby removing accountability of law enforcement services in the Town from the people being served and weakening or effectively eliminating the ability of the Town’s elected officials to implement law enforcement initiatives or directives that they determine to be important to the public safety in the Town; and

WHEREAS, achieving public safety has become a greater problem in the Town of Brentwood, as well as surrounding areas, in recent years; and

WHEREAS, in June 2009 the Brentwood Anti-Crime Advisory Committee, under its charter, undertook a comprehensive study of the feasibility of re-establishing a Municipal Police Force; and

WHEREAS, the study recommended that it would be both financially and operationally feasible for the Town to re-establish its own police department of a chief and three officers; and

WHEREAS, the results of the Committee’s feasibility study were made publically available and were formally presented in several public hearings before the Town Council, where public comment concerning the study and the proposal for the Town to re-establish its own Municipal Police Force was sought and received from all interested parties; and

WHEREAS, on October 3rd and 5th Town Hall Meetings were held and on October 6, 2009 the Town Council met in regular session to consider, among other things, whether and when the Town should proceed to re-establish its own Municipal Police Force and self-provide its own law enforcement services; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council hereby determines, that the re-establishment of a Municipal Police Force will improve the delivery of law enforcement services to the Town and its residents and will improve public safety in the Town and otherwise will promote the safety, health and welfare of the Town and its residents based on, *inter alia* the following findings:

(a) Re-establishment of a Municipal Police Force will enable the Town to prioritize deployment of law enforcement resources to better address the Town’s local needs;

(b) Re-establishment of a Municipal Police Force will greatly improve officer availability and response times because the officers’ sole responsibility will be to the Town and its residents and the Town’s officers will be located solely within the Town;

(c) Re-establishment of a Municipal Police Force will assure that the deployment of Town police to surrounding jurisdictions in response to mutual aid requests will be managed by Town police to protect the Town and its residents by assuring that adequate coverage remains within the Town;

(d) Re-establishment of a Municipal Police Force will permit the Town Council to control budgetary pressures for law enforcement services, including allowing the Town to qualify directly for Federal grant money and to become the direct recipient under Federal and State law of certain forfeited assets and funds from cases originating in the Town; and

(e) Re-establishment of a Municipal Police Force will allow the Town to directly control the hiring and termination of law enforcement personnel in the Town, thereby assuring that the Town's police force will consist of highly-trained, motivated and competent individuals that are dedicated to providing high quality, responsive, law enforcement services to the Town and its residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Brentwood, Maryland that a Municipal Police Force be re-established and that the Town immediately advertise for a Chief of Police and negotiate with the County and the City of Mt. Rainier to ensure a smooth transition from the use of County contract officers and the Mt Rainier Memorandum of Understanding officer to the use of Town officers, to enhance the public safety protection provided by the County for the Town of Brentwood.

This Resolution, assigned no. 2009-06, shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 13th Day of October 2009.

Brentwood Town Council

By Xzavier C. Montgomery-Wright, Mayor
Xzavier C. Montgomery-Wright, Mayor

Witnessed By: Melora Anderson
Melora Anderson (Acting) Town Clerk

VOTING:

Yea 3: Mayor Xzavier C. Montgomery-Wright; Vice Mayor E. James Cooksey;
and Councilmember Jeffrey Clark

Nay 0

Abstain 1: Councilmember Marlene Robinson

Absent/Excused 1: Councilmember Aneeka Harrison

Deposited in the office of the Town Clerk on this 13th Day of October, 2009.

Recorded this 13th Day of October, 2009.